

Timangokhala Ngati Nyama Basi

Kuchokera ku *Just Meat*, nkhani yolembedwa ndi
Jack London

Womasulira m'Chichewa: LULA PENSULO

Copyright © 2018 Lula Pensulo

All rights reserved.

ISBN: 26061991 28032024

TIMANGOKHALA NGATI NYAMA BASI

Anayenda molowera pakona ina mwapang'onopang'ono kwinaku akumwazamwaza maso ake uku ndi uku. Ngakhale ankachita zimenezi, masowo akayendayenda ankabwereranso pansanjika yachiwiri ya nyumba yomwe inali tsidya lina la msewu womwe ankayendawo. Chifukwa cha mdima womwe unali usikuwo, munthuyu sankaooneka bwinobwino. Nyale zomwe zinkayaka mozengereza mumsewuwo zinkachititsa kuti malo ambiri mukhale mdima wandiweyani. Atayenda motsetsereka n'kufika penapake, anatembenuka n'kuyamba kubweranso kumene ankachokera. Iye ankayenda mwakachetechete makutu ake ali m'mwamba ndipo sikulakwitsa kunena kuti ankatha kumva chilichonse chomwe chinkachitika momuzungulira.

Akuyenda choncho, anamva kulira chapatali. Kulira kumeneku kunamuthandiza kudziwa kuti nyumba yomwe inali pafupi ndi pomwe ankadutsa muli mwana wamng'ono. Koma kuliraku sikunamudetse nkhawa chifukwa sikanasokoneza ntchito yofunika kwambiri imene inkachitika m'nyumba yomwe inakola chidwi chake ija. Posakhailitsa makutu ake anatola phokoso lamapazi a munthu wina yemwe ankathamanga chapatali.

Ngakhale sanamuone bwinobwino munthuyo, ana-

zindikira kuti ndi bambo wochedwa yemwe ankathama-ngira kwawo moti sanatekeseke ndi mtswatswa wake. Kenako anaona bamboyo akuwoloka msewu ndipo analowa m'kanjira kena n'kuzimirika. Munthuyu anapitirizabe kumwazamwaza maso ake ndipo anaona kuwala pawindo lanyumba ina yomwe inali pakona. Mmene kuwalako kunkaonekera kunali kwa machesi. Chimenechi chinali chizindikiro choti kunja kukucha ndipo anaganiza zoyang'ana wotchi yake. Atayendetsa maso ake n'kuyang'ana munsanjika yapamwamba pa nyumba munkayatsidwa machesiyo anaona kuwala kwa nyali. Kuwala kwake kunali kwakachizirezire ndipo atangokuona anazindikira kuti zikhocha kutheka kuti m'chipindacho mwagona munthu wina yemwe akudwala kwambiri.

Ngakhale ankayang'ana zinthu zonsezi, maso ake sankachoka panyumba yomwe inali kutsidya lamsewu ija. Mosasamala kanthu kuti wayang'ana kuti, kaya akuyenda molowera kuti, maso komanso mayendedwe ake ankabwereranso panyumbayi. Chodabwitsa kwambiri n'choti panyumba ankachita nayo chidwiya, panalibe chodabwitsa chilichonse chomwe chinkaoneka kupatulapo windo la m'mwamba mwa nyumbayi lomwe linali lotsegula. Popanda kuganizira za windoli, nyumbayo inali itakutidwa ndi mdima wokhawokha komanso kunangoti zi-i.

Ngakhale munthuyu anali tcheru chonchi, zikuoneka kuti anali ndi timantha. Iye ankadziwa kuopsa kwa zimene ankachita pamalowa. N'zoona kuti sanachite mantha ndi bambo wochedwa uja, komabe ankazindikira kuti chilichonse chikhocha kuchitika. Ankadziwa bwino-bwino kuti mumdimba wa usikuwo mukanatha kubisala anthu ena omwe ankamuwerenga.

Kenako chakumunsi kwa msewuwo anaona chinthu china chikuyenda ndipo ulendo umenewu thupi lake lina-

muuza kuti achitepo kanthu. Chinachake chinamuthandiza kudziwa kuti munthuyu si wochedwa. Iye ankadziwa bwinobwino mayendedwe a adani ake ngati mmene ankadziwira kuseri kwa dzanja lake. Atangoona chinthu chomwe chinkayendacho, anaimba likhweru kawiri atayang'ana kumene kunali nyumba ija, ndipo mwamsanga anathawa n'kukabisala pamdima. Ali pamenepo, maso ake anangoti ga pa chinthu chinkabweracho. Pamene chinkayandikira anazindikira kuti zimene ankaganiza zinali ziona. Chinthu chinkayendacho anali wapolisi.

Iye anapitirizabe kuyang'ana wapolisiyo yemwe anadutsa n'kumalowera kumtunda. Patapita kanthawi, anasokoloka pamdimapo n'kuyamba kumutsatira chapatali. Wapolisiyo ankangodziyendera moti posakhalitsa anazimirika. Kenako munthuyu anabwereranso pafupi ndi nyumba ankachita nayo chidwi ija n'kukaimbanso likhweru maulendo awiri. Anaimba likhweruli ngati njira yotsimikizira mnzake yemwe anali m'nyumbamo kuti zoposa zomwe zimadutsa panjapo zapita. Ulendo woyamba uja ankaimba pomuchenjeza kuti kunjako kwaipa.

Ataponya maso anaona chinthu chinachake chikuyenda mumdima pakakolido komwe kanali pamwamba pa nyumba ankachita nayo chidwiyo ndipo chinthucho chinatsika ndi masitepe mpaka pansi. Kenako chinatuluka kudzera pakageti kakang'ono n'kuphera mumsewu ndipo chinayamba kuyenda motsetsereka ndi msewuwo. Chifu kwa cha kuwala kwachizirezire kwa magetsi aja, chinthucho chinayamba kuoneka kuti ndi munthu. Munthu ankadikirira uja atangoona mnzakeyo, nayenso anayamba kutsetsereka ndi msewu. Atayenda pang'ono anaoloka msewu n'kumakayenda limodzi ndi munthu wokulupala yemwe anatuluka m'nyumba uja.

Anthu awiriwa anali osiyana kotheratu. Tikutero

chifukwa wina anali chiphanza, pomwe wina anali woo-nda ngati udzudzu.

“Wapeza zotani aise?” anafunsa wochepe thupi uja. Dzina la munthu ameneyu linali Jim.

Chiphanza chija chinangodzuma, ndipo chinaponya mapazi angapo chisanayankhe.

“Ndapeza katundu wabwino kwambiri,” chinatero chiphanzacho.

Jim anasekera kukhudu, kamtima kali dyokodyoko kuti amve zambiri. Atayenda kamtunda ndithu, analephera kuugwira mtima.

“Zinthu zake ndi monga chani?” anafunsa Jim. “Wapeza katundu wanji?”

“Koma nawenso! Ukuganiza kuti nthawi yokhala pansi n’kumaona kuti ndi katundu wanji ndikanaipeza kuti? Chomwe ndikudziwa ndi choti ndi katundu wabwino kwambiri. Moti nanenso sindikukhulupirira kuti patsiku ngati lalero mwayi ungatigwere m’mbale chonchi. Ingo-dikira, ukamvetsa zimene ndikutanthauza tikakafika kunyumba.”

Dzina la chiphanzacho linali Matt. Jim anamuyang’ana Matt ndipo mothandizidwa ndi nyale zamumsewu zomwe zinali patsogolo pawo, anaona nkhope yake ikuwala ndi chisangalalo. Anaonanso kuti anali atanyamula phukusi la zinthu m’dzanja lake lamanzere.

“Kodi mkono wakowu watani?” anafunsa Jim akuyang’anitsitsa dzanja lamanja la Matt.

“Ndimalimbana ndi chitsiru chija ndiye chinandiluma. Kaya sindidwala chiwewe kaya? Ndinamva zoti anthu amatha kudwala chiwewe akalumidwa ndi munthu wodwala namtukunya.”

“Bwanji? Kunali nkondo, eti?” Jim anafunsa mokhala ngati akuda nkhowa, koma Matt anangong’ung’u-

dza.

“N’chifukwa chiyani sumayankha ndikamakufunsa zinthu zofunika?” anafunsa Jim mokwiya kwambiri. “Tangotiuzani. Sikuti muluza ndalama iliyonse chifukwa choti tadziwa zimene zinachitika, ndife mwamuna mnzanu. Osamakhala ngati mukuchita zinthu ndi mkazi ayi!”

“Poyamba ndimaganza kuti wacomoka,” anapereka yankho Matt, “koma kenako ndinangozindikira wadzambatuka.”

“Koma ndiye unamukonza mwakachetechetetu. Sindinamvetu phokoso ngakhale pang’ono.”

“Jim,” anatero Matt diso lili pamtunda, “ndapalama mlandu woopsa kwambiri. Nanga ndikanatani atandidzukira? Akanandigwiritsatu! Sindikanachitira mwina moti ndinangomuchuna basi. Choncho kuyambira lero tikufunika kumachita zinthu mosamala mpaka nkhanayi itazizira.”

“Unamva likhweru ndinaimba lija?” anafunsa Jim.

“Inde ndinamva. Ndinali nditamaliza kale kugwira ntchito moti ukanapanda kuimba likhweru lija ndikanatuluka.”

“Ndinaimba chifukwa kumabwera mbola. Koma zikuoneka kuti anali m’chithumba. Anangodutsa n’kumapita moti ndinamutsata mpaka kumtunda kuti ndione kumene akulowera. Nditaona kuti akungoyenda chimutumutu, ndinangomutaya n’kumabwerera. Pamene ndimafika panyumba ija m’pamene ndimaimbanso likhweru lina lija. N’chifukwa chiyani unatenga nthawi yaitali chonchija usanatuluke utamva likhwerulo?”

“Ndimafuna kutsimikizira kuti zonse zili bwino,” anatero Matt. “Ndinasangalala kwambiri nditamva ukumbanso ulendo wachiwiri uja. Komabe ndimaona kuti ngati kwadutsa mbola ndiyenera kuchita zinthu mosamala.

Zimapezeka kuti wangotuluka chituluketuluke n’kungo-fikira m’manja. Choncho ngati ukufuna kudziwa chifukwa chimene ndimachedwera, timantha ndi timene tinandiche-dwetsa. Komanso m’nyumba muja muli mphaka winawa-ke yemwe amangoyendayenda n’kumasokosera. Amandi-nyamula mtima bwanji!”

“Zimenezo n’zosadandaulitsa, bola tapeza katundu wabwino!” anatero Jim kukamwa kwake kutaphwethuka ndi chisangalalo.

“Ndikukuuza Jim, katundu wake ndi nyatwa. Moti mtima wanga ukungoti phaphapha kuti ndikamuone bwino.”

Mosadziwa, anthu awiriwa anangopezeka kuti aya-amba kuyenda ndawala. Koma sikuti anayamba kuchita zinthu motayirira ngati avuuka kale m’mavuto. Maulendo awiri anasintha njira kuti asakumane ndi apolisi, ndipo ankaonetsetsa kuti sakuyenda moonetsera kuti achita zina-zake zoopsa pamene ankalowa m’kanjira kopita kunyumba zosalongosoka zomwe zinali kunja kwa mzinda.

Atalowa m’nyumba yawo, yomwe inali pansanjika yapamwamba, Jim anangofikira kuyatsa nyale, Matt akukhoma loko ndi makiyi. Kenako analowetsa anamphatika omwe anali kuseri kwa chitsekochi m’chimake. Pamene ankatembenuka, anaona kuti mnzake uja akumudikirira lilime lili lawilawi ngati galu wanjala. Matt anamwetulira ataona dyera la mnzakeyo.

“Tochiyi ndi yothandiza kwambiri,” anatero Matt akutulutsa katochi m’thumba mwake ndipo ankanena mawu amenewa akuiyang’anitsitsa tochiyo. “Koma m’pofunika tigule mabatile ena. Alimowa atha mphamvu. Kanga-po konse maganizo amandibwerera kuti ikhoza kundithimira ndisanamalize kugwira ntchito. Nyumba imene ija ndi yosokoneza kwambiri. Yangoti zipinda balala, moti

ndinangotsala pang’ono kusochera. Komanso ndinapusi-tsika kwambiri chifukwa ndimaganiza kuti wagona m’chipinda chakumanja.”

“Pajatu ndinakuuza kuti amagona chakumanzere,” Jim anamudula mawu.

“Iwe ndi munthu wabodza kwabasi! Mesa unandiuza kuti chipinda chake chili kumanja,” anatero Matt. “Moti sukuchita manyazi kumandinamiza m’maso muli gwa choncho? Dikira ndikuonetse mapu amene unandijambulira.”

Anatero Matt akupisa m’thumba mwake ndipo dzanja lake linatulukamo ndi kapepala. Kenako anayamba kukatambasula ndipo Jim anawerama kuti aone.

“Napepe, ndinakuponezadi pamenepo,” analapa Jim.

“Ukunenadi zooni, unalakuwitsa kwambiri. Zimene unachitazi zinachititsa kuti ndiyambe kukukaikira. Koma umadziwa iwe kuti ntchito imeneyi ndi yoopsa? Ukana-thatu kundilowetsa m’mavuto?”

“Koma ubwino wake unasemphana nawo. Basi, tiyeni tiwale zakale,” anatero Jim. “Nkhani yatsala apa ndi yoti tione katundu amene tapeza.”

“Ukuganiza kuti nkhani imeneyi ndi yaing’ono?” anafunsa Matt molusa. “Nkhaniyitu ndi yofunika kwambiri kwa ineyo. Ineyo ndi amene ndinaika moyo wanga pampeni iweyo umangoyendayenda panja. M’pofunika uiganizire bwinobwino nkhani imeneyi. Ukuyenera kumachita zinthu mosamala kwambiri tikamagwira ntchito,” kenako anapumira pang’ono n’kunena kuti, “Chabwino basi, bwera ndikuonetse.”

Kenako anapisa m’thumba labulukulu lake ndipo analitulutsamo litadzaza timiyala tadayamondi. Timiyalati anatikhuthulira patebulo lawo lothimbirira ndipo tinkawa-

la mochititsa chidwi kwambiri. Jim anasangalala zedi ataona miyala yamtengo wapataliyi.

“Pamenepa m’pang’ono,” anatero Matt nkhope ya-ke ili ngwe-e. “Ndangoyambapo chabe.”

Matt anapitirizabe kutulutsa zinthu zomwe anafunkha m’nyumba muja. Anatulutsa timaphukusi tomwe tinali ndi timiyala tadayamondi tambiri kuposa tomwe anatulutsa ulendo woyamba uja. Kenako anapisanso m’thumba lina n’kutulutsamo timiyala tamtundu wina.

“Ameneyu ndi golide,” anatero kwinaku akuika timiyalato pamalo awokha patebulo paja.

Maso a Jim ankafuna kufwamphuka m’chimake ataona golideyo.

“Anthu amagulitsa timiyala timeneti modula kwambiri,” anatero Jim. “Palinso zina?”

“Bwanji, sukukhutsidwa ndi zimene ndatulutsazi?” anatero Matt ataipitsa nkhope.

“Ayi, sikuti ndikuderera. Ndi zambiri ndithu,” Jim anayankha monyinyirika. Kenako anapitiriza kuti, “Nditakhala ineyo ndikhoza kugulitsa kaphukusi kalikonse madola 10 sausande.”

“10 sausande?” Matt anatsutsa. “Katundu ameneyutu ndi wodula kwambiri. Nanga bwanji ndolo komanso zodzikongoletsera za akazi zili umozo?”

Kenako Matt anatambasula kaphukusi kaja ndipo anatola ndolo kuchokera pamulu waukulu wa zodzikongoletsera za akazi zomwe zinali m’kaphukusiko. Zinthu zimenezi zinali zamtengo wapatali kwambiri. Matt anatola ndoloyo akudzimva kutsekemera kwambiri ndipo anapita pafupi ndi nyale n’kumaiyang’ana mwachidwi komanso kuiyeza ndi manja ake kuti aone ngati ingabweretse ndalama zochuluka ataipititsa pamsika.

“Ndolo zimenezi tikhoza kuzigulitsa madola 1 sau-

zande,” anatero Jim mofulumira atangoona ndoloyo.

“1 sauzande?” anayankha Matt asakukhulupira zimene anamvazo. “Ine ndikuona kuti tikhoza kuzigulitsa pamtengo woposa pamenepo. Mwina tikhoza kuzipititsa pa 3 sauzande, ndipo ndikuona kuti umenewonso ungakhale mtengo wongotaya.”

“Zikungokhala ngati kutulotu!” anatero Jim akuona mulu waukulu wa zozdikongoletsera za akazi zija, zomwe zinkanyezimira mosupula moyo. Jim anapeza chochita tsopano. Iye anayamba kuika timiyala tadayamondi tija m’magulumagulu malinga ndi kukula kwake.

“Ife ndiye taphula basi. Matt, chaka chinotu moyo tiumva kukoma kwabasi. Sindikukaikira kuti mowa tizichita wosamba.”

“Komatu usaganize kuti tipeza ndalama zimenezi kamodzinkamodzi. Zikhoza kutitengera zaka zingapo tikugulitsa katundu ameneyu,” anatero Matt poganizira kuopsa kogulitsa katundu wakuba kamodzinkamodzi.

“Komabe tangoganizira mmene moyo wathu usinthire! Tizingodyerera tili phe-e, kwinaku tikutaitsa katundu wathuyu pang’onopang’ono.”

Maso a Matt anawala ndi chisangalalo, kenako anaimirira.

“Ndinakuuzatu ine kuti anthu tapeza katundu wabho-o,” anatero monong’ona Matt.

“Palinso zina?” anatero Jim pakamwa pakukhala ngati pakufuna kuyamba kuchucha ndondoli chifukwa chankhwiru yofuna kuona zinthu zinanso zamtengo wapatali kwambiri.

“Ndinangotsala pang’ono kuiwaladi,” anatero Matt, akupisa m’thumba lake lamkati mwajekete.

Dzanja lake linatuluka litagwira mkanda wokongola wopangidwa ndi ngale. Mkandawu anaukutira muka-

nsalu. Koma zikuoneka kuti Jim sanachite nawo chidwi kwenikweni.

“Tikhozadi kupeza kenakake titaugulitsa,” anatero Jim, ndipo anapitiriza kuyang’ana timiyala tadayamondi tija. Kenako zinangopezeka kuti onse asiya kuyankhulana. Jim ankangoseweretsa zinthu zamtengo wapatalizo ngati mwana. Ankati akaziika m’magulumagulu, ankazisakaniza n’kuyambiranso kuziika m’magulu.

Monga tanenera kale, Jim anali wochepa thupi ndipo thupi lakelo linali lokhwinyata ngati mwana wodwala matenda osowa zakudya m’thupi. Thupi losasangalatsali linkachitira umboni zokhoma zomwe anakumana nazo kungochokera ali mwana. Ngakhale nkhope yake inkasonye-zanso zimenezi. Maso ake aang’ono komanso kamwa lake lotambalala zinapanikizana pakankhope kake kongokwana m’manjamu, komwe chifukwa chautambwali wake kan kangokhala ngati ka pusi.

Tikayerekezera ndi Jim, Matt sankachita chidwi ndi zinthu zamtengo wapatalizo. Iye anakhala pampando n’kugwira mutu wake ngati ukumulemera ndipo zigongono zake anazibzala patebulo paja ngati mitengo yochiriki-zira nkhekwe. Maso ake anangoti dwi-i kumayang’ana zinthu zamtengo wapatalizo akuoneka kuti ali m’maganizo. Kunena chilungamo, anthu awiriwa anali osiyana zedi moti zinali zodabwitsa kuti ankakwanitsa bwanji kukhalira limodzi.

Matt anali munthu wamphamvu zake ndipo thupi lake lonse linali cheya chokhachokha. Ukamuyang’ana ankangokhala ngati chiyendayekha ndipo analidi ndi mphamvu zofanana ndi chiyendayekha. Kwa iyeyo nkhani yoti anthu akadzafa adzapita kumwamba inali nthanthi yoyuza ana akamafuna kugona. Tikanena za maso ake, anali aakulu kwambiri ndipo anatalikirana pankhope yake ngati

ayambana. Ukamuonera patali, nkhope yake inkaoneka moopsa kwambiri ngati ya chigawenga. Matt anali ndi ziwalo zazikulu mopitirira muyeso moti ankaoneka mosiyana kwambiri ndi anthu ena onse m'tawuni yomwe anka-khalayi.

“Kaphukusi kamodzi tikhoza kukagulitsa 50 sauza-nde,” anatero Jim modzidzimukira.

“Yachepa imeneyo, bolansotu utanena 100 sauza-nde,” anatero Matt.

Kenako anakhalanso chete kwa nthawi yaitali.

“Ndikudabwa kuti n'chifukwa chiyani anatenga katundu wodula ngati ameneyu n'kupita naye kwawo,” anatero Jim. “Sungakhulupirire kuti munthu angalimbe mtima kumayenda mumsewu atanyamula katundu wapamwamba ngati ameneyu. Katundu woteretu timangomutsekera musefa!”

Pamene mnzakeyu ankanena zimenezi, Matt anali akuganizira za munthu yemwe anamupha pomukanyanga pakhosi m'nyumba muja. Anakumbukira munthuyo akumuyang'ana momvetsa chisoni m'kuwala kwachizirezire komwe kunali m'nyumbamo. Ngakhale maganizowa anamubwerera, sanamufotokozere mnzakeyo.

“Zimene munthu ameneyu wachita ndi zovuta kumvetsa,” anatero Matt pamapeto pake. “Zoonangamuchite chipongwe mnzake wapamtima ngati amene uja? Zikuoneka kuti amafuna kungobulika kusanache n'kuthawitsa katunduyu. Kaya amafuna kuthawira kuti? Ndikuganiza kuti tikanangochedwa pang'ono tikanamupeza atayalula mphasa. Zimene zachitikazi zandiphunzitsa kuti anthu ngofunika kusamala nawo. Nanga ndi ndani amadziwa kuti angafike pomuyeretsa m'maso mnzake wa sunsanenendisunseko ngati amene uja. Masiku anotu aliye-nse ndi munthu wakuba moti sunganeneretu kuti mnzako

sangakuchite chipongwe. Munthu akhoza kumakumwetu-lira akukusungira kampeni kumphasa. Mtima wanzako ndi tsidya lina. Ndi zimenenso amanyuzipepala akumakonda kunena masiku ano. Anthu omwe amadyera mbale imodzi akumapezeka kuti asandukirana poyerayera n’kudulana makosi.”

Pamene ankamaliza kuyankhula mawu amenewa, Matt anaona Jim akumuyang’ana ndi diso loopsa kwa-mbiri.

“Iwe Jim, n’chifukwa chiyani ukundiyang’ana cho-ncho?”

Mawuwa anamufikira mosayembekezereka Jim, moti anangoti kakasi.

“Palibe,” anatero Jim, “ndimaganizira mwayi wau-kulu womwe tapezawu. Munthu sangakhulupirire utamu-uza kuti tapeza katundu yenseyu m’nyumba ya munthu mmodzi. N’chifukwa chiyani wafunsa?”

“Ayi, ndimangofuna kudziwa.”

Kenako panagwanso bata lalikulu, ndipo mwa apa ndi apo Jim ankayankhula zinthu zosamveka. Iye anali ata-tengeka kotheratu ndi zinthu zamtengo wapatalizo. Sikuti ankachita zimenezi chifukwa chosangalatsidwa ndi kuko-ngola kwa zinthuzo ayi, koma ankaganizira za moyo wo-fewa womwe ankayembekezera kusangalala nawo akagu-litsa zinthuzo. M’mutu mwake munkayendayenda zinthu zambirimbiri ndipo zochuluka sizinali zabwino. Iye ana-yamba kukonza mapulani aupandu ndipo anatsimikiza mtima zowakwaniritsa. Pamene ankalingalira zimenezi, ankaima kaye pang’ono n’kumezera mate mokhala ngati akuwakakamiza kuti atsikire kukhosi. Akatsinzina, anka-tha kuona masomphenya a zinthu zomwe adzasangalale nazo akadzagulitsa katunduyo moti tsogolo lake ankatha kuliona likuwala m’timiyala komanso zinthu zina zamte-

ngo wapatali zomwe zinali mbwe-e patebulopo. Dyera linali litayamba kumulamulira moti anali wokonzeka kuchita chilichonse kuti alemere.

“M’pofunika tiwerenge zinthuzi tisanazilongedze,” anatero Matt mwadzidzidzi, ndipo anasiya kuganizira mmene anaphera munthu uja. “Pasapezeke munthu wochita zachibwana ndi katunduyu. M’pofunika tigawane mofanana!”

Maso a Jim anayenda mosonyeza kuti sakugwirizana nazo. Matt anaona zimenezi ndipo zinamutsukunyula mtima.

“Wamva-a!” anabwerezanso Matt ndipo anayankhula mawu amenewa moopseza kwambiri.

“Kodi mesa nthawi zonse timachitira zinthu limodzi?” anayankha Jim modziikira kumbuyo ndipo yankho anaperekali linali lokaikitsa kwambiri.

“N’zoona kuti timachitiradi zinthu limodzi tikakhala pamavuto,” anatero Matt. “Koma nthawi zambiri si zimene zimachitika zinthu zikayamba kuyenda bwino. Kunjaku anthu amachita zinthu limodzi chifukwa choti sangachitirensa mwina. Akangopeza zimene amafuna amangomutaya mnzawo paliponse. Ifeyo tisakhale ndi mtima wankhwidzi ngati umenewo. Panopa tatola chikwama, ndipo tiyenera kuchotsa maganizo oipa aliwonse n’kuyamba kuchita mabizinezi achilungamo!”

“Inenso ndikuona choncho,” Jim anavomereza, koma mkatikati mwamtima wake, maganizo oipa anali atayamba kukula mphamvu.

Matt anapita pakabati yomwe inali pafupi ndi sitovu n’kukatenga mapepala apulasitiki awiri. M’pepala lina anakhuthulamo masamba a tiyi ndipo m’pepala linalo anakhuthulamo tsabola. Mapepalawa anapita nawo patebulo paja n’kugawa timiyala tadayamondi tija pakati ndipo ana-

ika mulu ulionse m'kapepala kamodzi. Atatero anayamba kuwerenga ndolo komanso zodzikongoletsera za akazi zija ndipo kenako anazimanga pakansalu.

“Tili ndi zinthu zazing’onozing’ono zokwana 147,” anatero atamaliza kuwerenga, “zokulirapo zokwana 20; zazikulu ziwiri komanso chachulu kwambiri chimodzi. Tili linso ndi timiyala tamtengo wapatali tating’ono kwambiri todzaza dzanja limodzi.”

Kenako anayang’ana nkhope ya Jim.

“Ndi momwemo ndithu,” anayankha Jim.

Atatero Matt analemba nambala ya zonsezi papepala linalake, ndipo anakopera zomwe analembazo papepala linanso n’kulipereka kwa Jim kuti asunge.

“Titere, pepalali likhale ngati umboni,” anatero Matt.

Kenako Matt anapita pamene ankasunga zakudya ndipo anatenga paketi yaikulu ya shuga n’kumukhuthulira m’mbale. M’pepalamo anaikamo timaphukusi anamanga tija komanso ndolo ndi zodzikongoletsera za akazi zija. Atatero anamanga zinthuzo n’kukazibisa kungsi kwa pilo. Kenako anakhala pabedi n’kuyamba kumasula zingwe za nsapato zake.

“Ukuganiza bwanji Matt, kodi sitingagulitse katundu ndalama yokwana madola 100 sauzande?” anafunsa Jim.

“Zikhozadi kukwana,” anayankha motero Matt akumalizitsa kumasula chingwe cha nsapato yomwe inatsala. “Ndinamvapo mtsikana wina yemwe amavina m’bala inayake ku Arizona akunena kuti zodzikongoletsera za akazi ngati zimenezi zikanakhala zopanda ntchito si bwenzi akupitirizabe kuvina m’mabala. Ankati anagulapo zodzikongoletserazi ndi ndalama zokwana 50 sauzande! Komatu zinthu zake zinali zosakwana 10 ndiponso zafeki!”

“Nanga pamenepa palinso chifukwa choti tizigwirira ntchito ngati?” anatero Jim mosangalala, “Ingakhaletu misala yaikulu kumagwira magobo mfwekwe wa ndalama uli m’thumba!” kenako anafwenthera. “Ndakhala ndikugwira ntchito kwa moyo wanga wonse, koma sindinapezapo zinthu zodula ngati zimene tapeza usiku umodzi wokhawu.”

“Zoonadi. Iweyodi wakhala ukugwira ntchito ngati kapolo. Koma mabwana ankangokulima pamsana. Tangoona mmene zala zakozo zinafupikira chifukwa chofukula pansa? Ayi ndithu, zogwira ntchitozodi asiireni anthu amene amazikonda. Ine ndinkagwira ntchito ndili wachichepere, ndisanalidziwe dziko. Pano ndinakula ndipo sindingayerekezenso kumachita chibwana chimenecho.”

Kenako Matt anagona pabedi paja ndipo Jim anazimitsa nyali n’kupita kukagona pambali pake.

“Ukupeza bwanji mkonowu, Matt?” Jim anafunsa mwachikondi kwambiri.

Chikondi chamtudu umenewu chinali chodabwitsa kwambiri, moti Matt anayamba kukaikira zolinga za mnzakeyo.

“Ndikuganiza kuti sindinatenge matenda. Wafunsi-ranji?”

Funso limeneli linachititsa kuti Jim ayambe kudziimba mlandu. Chamumtima ankamutukwana mnzakeyo pomufunsa mafunso oumitsa pakamwa ngati amenewa.

“Palibe. Ndangofunsa chifukwa umaoneka kuti umada nkhwawa kwambiri nthawi ijayi. Kodi katundu tapezayu tikamugulitsa, ndalama zako uchita nazo chiyani?”

Ndikagula famu yang’ombe ku Arizona ndipo ndikalemba antchito. Pali anthu angapo omwe ndikufuna kudzawaona akubwera kudzagwada pamaso panga kuti ndiwalembe ntchito. Anthu opusa amene aja kwabasi! Basi ti-

yeni tizigona tulo tingabwerere! Tidzakambirana zimenezi mawa kukacha ndipo ukamagona dziwa kuti patenga nthawi yaitali kuti timalize kugulitsa katunduyu. Tili ndi nthawi yambirimbi. Panopa tiyeni tizigona kaye.”

Ngakhale Jim anagoneka thupi lake pabedipo, maganizo ake anali m’maso. Iye ankangodzitembenuzatembenuza moti ankati akamati azigona, ankayamba kufulukutafulukuta mpaka tulo kubalalika. Akatsinzina, m’maso mwake ankangoonabe timiyala tadayamondi tija. Nayeonso Matt anagona khutu limodzi pozindikira utambwali wa mnzakeyo. Nayeonso Jim anazindikira zimenezi chifukwa ankati akamafulukuta, thupi la mnzakeyo linkasunthanso mosonyeza kuti likuzindikira zimene zikuchitika. Ulendo wina, pofuna kumudziwitsa kuti adakali m’maso, Matt anauza Jim kuti: “Kodi n’chifukwa chiyani ukungo-fulukutafulukuta ngati njoka? Usadandaule za katunduyu, sikuti athawa ayi.” Pamene Matt ankabanduka ndi mawuwa, Jim ankaganiza kuti wagona.

Onse anagona mpaka dzuwa kukwera. Kenako anadzuka nthawi imodzi n’kusintha zovala.

“Ndikupita kukagula nyuzi komanso buledi,” anatero Matt. “Iweyo upange khofi.”

Pamene Matt ankanena zimenezi, Jim anamuyang’ana cham’mbali ndipo anaponya maso ake papilo yemwe anabisapo katundu uja. Kenako nkhope ya Matt inasintha n’kuyamba kuoneka ngati ya chilombo.

“Tayang’ana kuno, Jim,” anatero Matt. “Usaiwaletu kuti m’pofunika tizichita zinthu mogwirizana. Ukayesa kuchita zinthu zafodya, ndikupha ngati udzudzu. Wamva? Ndikhoza kukutafuna wamoyo ine, wekhanso ukudziwa zimene ndimawachita anthu achibwana.”

Khungu la Matt, lomwe linali lakupsa ndi dzuwa, komanso mano ake othimbirira ndi fodya anaonekera ata-

walumanitsa chifukwa cha mkwiyo, kwinku akumukutira mano mnzakeyo. Jim anachita mantha kwambiri moti anabwerera m'mbuyo. Iye ankatha kuona imfa itaima ndi miyendo iwiri patsogolo pake. Atangoona mmene mnzakeyo anakwiya, m'maganizo mwake munabwera zimene zinachitika usiku wapitawo. Chimunthu chinaima patsogolo pakechi chinapha munthu ndi manja ake ndipo zimene chinachitazo sizinachithawitsire tulo ngakhale pang'ono.

Matt anatuluka panja n'kumusiya Jim akungonje-njemera. Atangoona kuti Matt watuluka, nayenso mkwiyo wake unayaka moti anayamba kutukwana chapansipansi atayang'ana kukhomo kuja. Kenako anakumbukira katu-ndu wamtengo wapatali uja, ndipo anathamangira kumene kunali bedi kuja n'kukayang'ana ngati kaphukusi ka zinthu kaja kanali kadakali pomwepo. Anakapezadi kaphukusiko kali phe-e ndipo anakagwira mwamphamvu pofuna kutsimikizira kuti zonse zilimo. Iye ankaganiza kuti Matt wanyamula katunduyo n'kuthawa naye. Koma atamupeza, anayang'ana komwe kunali sitovu ndipo anabwezeretsa katunduyo kusi kwa pilo n'kupita kukayatsa moto kuti aterekepo tipoti yamadzi opangira khofi.

Matt anatulukira madzi akhofi aja akubwadamuka. Atangofika anapita patebulo kukadula buledi komanso kupaka bata. Nayenso Jim anapanga khofi n'kumupungulira m'makapu awiri. Kenako anatenga kapu yake n'kukakhala pansu ndipo anapyontha maulendo angapo. Pa nthawiyi m'pamene Matt anatulutsa nyuzipepala m'thumba mwake.

"Jim, ifeyo tilemera chaka chake ndi chino," anatero Matt. "Ndinakuza kuti katundu ameneyu ndi patali, taona mitengo yake!"

Kenako analozera mnzakeyo mutu wankhani wo-

mwe unali patsamba loyamba.

“ZACHITIKA KUNYUMBA YA BUJANNOFF
NDI KAMBA ANGA MWALA!” mutuwo unkatero.
“MUNTHU WINA WAPHEDWA ATANGOBERA
MNZAKE KATUNDU WAMTENGO WAPATALI.”

“Waiona nkhani yake!” anakuwa mwachisangalalo
Matt. ‘Waphedwa atabera mnzake katundu wamtengo
wapatali.’ Anamuyeretsadi m’maso mnzake uja ndithu.”

“Katundu wa madola 500,000 wasowa,” Jim ana-
werenga mokweza. Kenako anasiya nyuzipepalayo pate-
bulo n’kuyamba kuyang’ana Matt. “Ndinakuuzatu ine, ife
sitikudziwa zambiri zokhudza mitengo ya katunduyu? 500
sauzande! Ine ndinanglekezera pa 100 sauzande basi.
Tiyeni tipitirize kuwerenga.”

Anapitirizabe kuwerenga mwakachetechete mitu
yawo itagundizana ngati ana amapasa, khofi wawo aku-
ngodzizizira patebulo.

“Ndikanakonda ndikanaona nkhope ya Metzner pa-
mene amatsegula sefa yake kusitolo n’kupeza kuti muli
chipululu chokhachokha,” Jim anatero nsidze zili piri-
ngane-e. “Ndiye kuti ataba katunduyu anapita kwawo kuti
akagone, eti?”

“Tapitiriza kuwerenga,” anatero Matt.

“Amafuna kunyamuka usiku wadzulo kuti athawire
kunja kwa dziko lino, koma sitima yapamadzi yomwe
amafuna kukwera inalephera kunyamuka pazifukwa zi-
na,” anapitiriza kuwerenga Jim.

“N’chifukwa chake tinamugwirira m’chisa, eti?”
Matt anamudula kuwerengako. “Unali mwayi waukulu ze-
di kuti sitimayo inalephera kunyamuka. Zimenezi ndi
zomwe zinachititsa kuti akagone kwawo. Komanso tina-
chita mwayi kuti tinamupeza asananyamuke chifukwa ti-
kanangochedwa pang’ono tikanamupeza ali pakalapakala,

mwinanso atabulika kale.”

“Sitima yomwe amafuna kukwera, yotchedwa Sojoda, yanyamuka cha m’ma 6 m’mawawu,” anapitiriza kuwerenga Jim.

“Walemphera kuthawatu pumbwa ameneyu,” anatero Matt akumwetulira. “Ndinaona wotchi yake ataitchera kuti ilire 5 koloko. Amafuna kuti kukangocha anyamuke . . . ndiye ine ndinangofika n’kumugwiragwira. Tapitiriza kuwerenga.”

“Adolph Metzner wagwira njakata, mkanda wodula kwambiri wopangidwa ndi ngale zamtengo wapatali wapita. Akatswiri akunena kuti mtengo wa mkandawo ukhoza kukhala madola 50 kapena 70 sauzande.”

Jim anakuwa ndi chisangalalo, ndipo kenako anati, “Kani mkanda uja ndi wodula choncho!” Kenako ananyambitira milomo yake n’kunena kuti, “Komadi ndi wokingola mochititsa kaso.”

“Ngale yaikulu kwambiri ya ku Brazil,” anapitiriza kuwerenga Jim, “ndi yamadola okwana 80 sauzande. Komanso zodzikongoletsera za akazi ndiponso timiyala tadayamondi, mtengo wake ndi madola 40 sauzande.”

“Ofunika manambala amenewa tiwasunge pabwino. Kusadziwatu n’kufa komwe. Tikanangoperekatu katunduyu pamtengo wozizira,” anatero Matt akumwetulira.

“Koma anthu amuchita chipongwe,” Jim anapitiriza kuwerenga. “Akuba anzake amamuwerenga ndipo amangoyang’anitsitsa zochita zake. Atadziwa zimene amafuna kuchita, anamutsatira kwawo komwe anakamukwangwanula zinthu zonse.”

“Koma anthu ndi opusa kwabasi!” anatero Matt. “Mmenemu ndi mmene mbiri imafalira . . . Nanga tikanadziwa bwanji zonsezi?”

“Ayi, bola ife tapata katunduyo basi,” Jim anatero

akumwetulira. “Bwanji timasule kuti timutsirenso diso.”

Kenako Jim anapita kukatsimikizira kuti chitseko ndi chokhoma komanso kuti anamphatika ali m’malo mwake ndipo Matt anapita kukatenga kaphukusi kanali kungsi kwa pilo kaja n’kukabweretsa patebulo.

“Koma katunduyu ndi patali!” anatero Jim atango-ona mkanda uja ndipo anapitirizabe kuuyang’ana kwa kanthawi. “Malinga ndi zimene akatswiri akunena, mkandawu ukhoza kugulitsidwa madola 50 kapena 70 sauzande.”

“Akazi amakonda katundu ameneyu osati pang’ono,” anatsirira ndemanga Matt. “Ndipo amatha kuchita chilichonse kuti amupeze, ngakhale kugulitsa matupi awo, kupha anthu, kapena kuchita chilichonse kuphatikizapo kuchita zinthu zina zomwe sungaziganizire.”

“Monganso mmene iwe ndi ine timachitira, eti?”

“Koma sikuti ine ndimachita zimenezi chifukwa cha iwe ayi,” anatero Matt. “Ndimapha anthu chifukwa cha akazi, komanso sikuti ndimachita zimenezi chifukwa choti ndimawakonda ayi, koma chifukwa cha zimene amandipatsa. Kusiyanana kwathu kwagona pamenepo. Akazi amafuna katunduyu kuti akhale wawo, pomwe ine ndimafuna katunduyu kuti iwowo andipatse zimene ndikufuna.”

“Ndi mwayi waukulu kuti amuna ndi akazi amafuna zinthu zosiyana,” anatero Jim.

“N’zimenetu zimathandiza kuti malonda aziyenda bwino padzikoli,” anavomereza Matt. “Zikanakhala kuti amuna ndi akazi amafuna zinthu zofanana bwenzi kuli matatalazi. Mwinanso bwenzi malonda kulibe.”

Pamene dzuwa linkafika paliwombo, Jim anapita kukagula zakudya. Atangonyamuka, Matt anachotsa zinthu zamtengo wapatali zija n’kuzimanganso m’kaphukusi kaja n’kukazibisa kungsi kwa pilo. Kenako anayatsa

sitovu n'kuterekapo madzi oti apangire khofi. Patangodutsa mphindi zingapo, Jim anatulukira.

“Zodabwitsa bwanji,” anatero Jim. “Anthu akungoti pichitipichiti kugula zinthu m'taunimu ndipo mashopu onse ndi otsegula ngati palibe chimene chachitika. Ine ndi-mangodziyendera pakati pawo ndipo palibe amene mphuno zake zamuthandiza kudziwa kuti ndine chikhwaya.”

Matt anang'ung'udza monyansidwa. Kudzikuza kwa mnzakeyo sikunamusangalatse ngakhale pang'ono.

“Wagula nyama ija?” anafunsa Matt.

“Inde ndagula. Nyama yake ndi yabwino kwambiri, ndi ka steki kamafuta. Taona!”

Anayamba kufutukula pepala lomwe anaikapo nyama yang'ombe yaminofu yabwinoyabwino kuti mnzakeyo aone. Kenako Jim anapita kukapanga khofi ndipo atamaliza, anapita kukamuika patebulo. Pamene Jim ankachita zimenezi, Matt anayamba kukazinga nyama ija.

“Usaiketu tsabola wambiri,” anatero Jim. “Ine sindigwirizana ndi madyedwe ako a Chiindiyawo. Umabwitikiza tsabola wambiri mundiwo iwe!”

Matt anaseka mokhala ngati akutafuna tsabola ndipo anapitiriza kuphika. Jim anapungulira khofi uja m'makapu. Anayamba ndi kupungulira m'kapu yatchaina yomwe inali yobenthuka pang'ono pamlomo. Kenako anasuntha n'kuima mofulatira mnzake uja n'kutulutsa kapepala kamankhwala n'kukang'amba. Atatero anapungulira mankhwalawo mkapu imodzi ndipo pamene ankachita zimenezi sanayerekeze ngakhale pang'ono kumuyang'ana mnzakeyo. Nyama ija inali itapsa tsopano ndipo Matt anatenga nyuzi n'kukaiyala patebulo paja. Kenako anapita kukatenga felempani yanyama ija n'kukaikhazikapo. Atatero anadula nyamayo pakati n'kuika ina m'mbale mwa Jim ndipo ina anayiika m'mbale mwake.

“Nyama imakoma yotentha. Ofunika kuidya mwa-changu isanazizire,” anatero Matt ndipo iyeyo anapereka chitsanzo chabwino potenga mpeni ndi foloko n’kuyamba kudya nyama yake. Nayenso Jim anakokera mbale yake pafupi n’kutengera chitsanzo cha mnzakeyo.

“Nyamayi ndi yokoma kwabasi,” anatero Jim po-bwekera akutafuna movukuta nthuli yoyamba yomwe ana-cheda m’mbale mwake. “Koma ndikuuze chinthu chimo-dzi Matt, ine sindidzabwera kudzakuyendera ukadzatsegu-la famu ku Arizona kwakoko ndipo usandifunse chifukwa chake.”

“Bwanjinso amwene?” anafunsa Matt.

“Kaphikidwe kako n’kamene kali ndi vuto,” anatero Jim. “Iweyo ndi kaphikidwe kako ka Chiindiyaka sindi-ngadzakwanitse kumakhala nawe. Ukangopita kukagula munda wakowo, za ine uiwale. Mwina ngati n’kukumana tikadzakumananso m’moyo winawo ku Gehena, paja ku-meneko sikudzakhala kusankha munthu wokhala naye. Nanga taona tsabola amene wakhuthulira m’nyamayi! M’mimba mwangamu simusungunuka koma!”

Anatero Jim akumwetulira, misozi italengeza m’maso chifukwa cha kuwotcha kwa nyama yomwe ina-dzaza mkamwa mwake. Kenako anatulutsa kampweya mkamwamo poyesa kuziziritsa nyama yotenthayo ndipo anagwira kapu yake yakhofi n’kupyontha pang’ono. Ata-tero anapitiriza kutafuna ngati akuchapa kwinaku akute-mbenuza nyama inali mkamwayo kuti asawauke kwa-mbiri.

“Ukuganiza bwanji zokhudza moyo winawo Matt?” anafunsa atamaliza kutafuna kuja. Pa nthawiyi anali aku-dabwa chifukwa chake mnzakeyo sakumwa khofi wake.

“Kunja kunotu kulibenso moyo wina woposa ume-ne tikupumawu,” anayankha Matt, atapumira kudya nya-

ma yake ndipo anagwira kapu yakhofi n'kupyontha pang'ono. "Kulibe kumwamba komanso kulibe Gehena, kulibe chilichonse. Moyo umene ulipo ndi wokhawu basi, moti munthu wanzeru amangodyeratu asanamwalire."

"Basi?" Jim anafunsa maso ake ali dwi-i, kuyang'anitsitsa mnzakeyo. Iye ankadziwa kuti akuyang'ana munthu amene wangotsala pang'ono kuzisiya. "Basi zima-thera pomwepo?" anabwerezanso kufunsa Jim.

"Unayamba waonapo munthu woti watha milungu iwiri atamwalira?" anafunsa mnzakeyo.

Jim anapukusa mutu.

"Ine ndinamuonapo. Ankaoneka ngati nyama tikudyayi. Ungakhulupirire nditakuuza kuti milungu yapitayo ng'ombe imeneyi imayendayenda m'dambo n'kumadya nsipu? Koma lero taona pamene yafika. Ili mufelempani ndipo ndi ndiwo basi. Ndi mmenenso zimakhallira ndi anthufe. Timavutika ndi zinthu zambirimbiri zopanda ntchito n'kumwalira. Kenako timangokhala ngati nyama basi! Nyama ili mufelempaniyi."

Matt anagwira kapu yake yakhofi n'kugugudiza, kenako anapunguliramonso khofi wina.

"Bwanji? Kodi umaopa kufa?" anafunsa Matt.

Jim anapukusa mutu. "Ngati zili ndi phindu lililonse? Ndikadzafa ndidzapitirizabe kukhala ndi moyo, si paja amati mzimu sufa. Mwina ndidzakabadwanso kwina-kwake!"

"Kuteroko ukufuna udzapitirizebe kuba komanso kusowetsa anthu mtendere ngati mmene umachitiramu?" anatero Matt akumwetulira mwautambwali.

"Ayi, mwina ndidzasintha," anatero Jim modzilibitsa mtima. "N'kutheka kuti kuba sikudzakhalanso kofunika m'moyo umenewo."

Kenako anasiya kuyankhula mwadzidzidzi, ndipo

anangoti maso dwi-i kutsogolo, nkhope yake ikuoneka ya-mantha.

“Bwanji achikulire?” anafunsa Matt.

“Palibe. Ndimaganizira nkhani ya imfa tikukambiranayi.”

Koma analephera kubisa mantha omwe anasonkhana pankhope yake. Zinkangokhala ngati mdima wa imfa wadutsa pamaso pake ndipo unachititsa kuti m’mutu mwake muderetu. Jim anadabwa kwambiri ndi zimene thupi lake linkachita. Chinthu choopsa chinali chitatsala pang’ono kumuchitikira. Mphuno zake zinayamba kumva fungo la imfa moti sanaphethire poyang’ana mnzake yemwe anakhala mbali ina yatebulo ankadyerapolo. Iye sanamvetse. Kodi mwina analakwitsa n’kuthira mankhwala aja m’kapu yake m’malo mothira m’kapu ya mnzakeyo? Ayi, chifu-kwa makhwalawo anawathira m’kapu yobenthuka mlomo ndipo kapuyo ndi imene Matt ankamwera.

Iye ankaona kuti angokhala maganizo chabe omwe anachititsa kuti maso ake ade. Ankadziwa kuti chinachake chichitika ndithu, koma chinachakecho chinkayenera kuchitikira Matt, osati iyeyo. Maso ake anali ataona Matt akugugudiza kapu ya khofi wothira mankhwala uja?

Nkhope ya Jim inayambiranso kuwala ndipo analizitsa kudya nyama yake. Pofuna kutsukuluza zokoma zonse zomwe zinali m’felempani muja, anatenga buledi n’kumuyendetsamo, kenako anagalika.

“Ndili mwana,” anayambiranso kuyankhula Jim, koma analephera kumalizitsa.

Ulendo umenewunso mdima uja unadutsa pamaso pake, ndipo thupi lake linayamba kunjenjemera. Iye anangomva ngati m’thupi mwake mukuyendayenda chinachake chomwe chinkang’amba minofu yake. Kenako anaweramuka n’kukhala tsonga ndipo atamvetsera m’thupi

mwake, anamva ululu winawake woopsa kwambiri womwe unamukakamizanso kutsamiritsa zigongono zake patibulo lija. Iye anayamba kunjenjemera mochititsa mantha. Pofuna kubisira mnzakeyo kunjenjemerako, analumanitsa mano ake ndipo patapita kanthawi kunasiya. Kukhosi kwake kunada atazindikira kuti kunjenjemerako kukuyambiranso ndipo ulendo uno ankanjenjemera mwankokomo woopsa moti analephera kudzigwira.

Posakhalitsa anangopezeka kuti wayamba kubanika ndipo nkhangono zake zinayamba kuzizira. Kunjenjemera kuja kunali kutafika poipa kwambiri ndipo kunkachitikabe ngakhale sankafuna kuti kuonekere. Mumtima mwake anadziuza kuti zinthu zoipa zimuchitikira ndipo mantha anamugwira. Thupi lake lija linali litayamba kunjenjemera kwambiri moti zinkangokhala ngati m'thupimo mukuchitika chivomerezi. Chifukwa chobanika, thukuta linayamba kutsika pachipumi chake. Iye anaponya maso m'nyumbamo ndipo zimene anaona zinamupatsa mantha. Ankangokhala ngati wangofika kumene pa ulendo wochokera kutali. Kenako anayang'ana Matt yemwe anakhala mbali ina yatebulolo ndipo anamuona akumwetulira ngati akutsatsa malonda a mankhwala otsukira m'mano. Zimenezi zinachititsa kuti nkhope ya Jim ideretu ndi mantha.

“Chikundichitikira n'chiyani?” anakuwa mwankhawa Jim. “Wanditsirira poizoni, eti?”

Matt ankangomuyang'ana mnzakeyo akumwetulira khutu mpaka khutu. Nkuntho wa kunjenjemera womwe unaomba Jim ulendo wotsatira unali woopsa kwambiri. Thupi lake linanjenjemera mochititsa mantha ndipo zinkangokhala ngati m'minofu yake mukuyendetsedwa macheka. Koma mwamwayi sanakomoke. Ali mkati mokunthidwa ndi kunjenjemera kumeneku, nayonso nkhope ya Matt inayamba kusintha. Kumwetulira kuja kunali kuta-

balalikiratu pankhope yake ndipo nayenso nkhawa inayamba kumugwira. Anakhala pampandopo mokhala ngati akumva mawu kuchokera m'thupi mwake ndipo ankayesa kumvetsera kuti mawuwu akumuza uthenga wotani. Matt anadzuka n'kuyenda pang'ono, kenako analenguka ndipo anabwerera n'kukhalanso pansi.

“Jim, unanditsirira poizoni, eti,” anatero chapansi-pansi.

“Nawenso wanditsirira poizoni kuti undiphe,” Jim anayankha mozazira.

“Inde. Ndakutsiriradi poizoni ndipo ukhula naye uona,” anatero Matt akuyankhula ngati akumva dzino, thupi lake likunjenjemera. “Wanditsirira poizoni wanji?”

“Tameki.”

“Nanenso ndakutsirira tameki yemweyo,” anatero-nso Matt asanafunsidwe. “Koma tameki ndi woopsa bwanji, zimene ndikumva m'thupimu!”

“Koma tanena zooni, Matt,” anatero Jim. “Wanditsiriradi tameki?”

“Inde, nyama yako ija ndinaibwitikiza bwinobwino ndi tameki. Ndinaikhuthulira zenizeni kuti ukamanyopola akukwane. Ndinachita mwanzeru kuti poizoniyo asakhudze nyama yanga.” Kenako anaona Jim akuyenda modzikoka molowera kukhomo.

“Ndiye mwiniwakewe ukuti ukulowera kuti?”

Posakhalitsa Jim anasolola anamphatika aja, koma Matt sanamulole kutuluka. Mwamsanga anamugwira n'kumukankhira kumbuyo.

“Ndikufuna ndipite kuchipatala,” anayankha Jim.

“Iwetu sutuluka muno. Sindikulola kuti uchoke muno n'kumakayendayenda mumsewu utaledzera ndi tameki. Pajatu katundu wamtengo wapatali amene taba uja ali panso papilopo. Ngakhale zitakhala kuti sunafe, apolisi

akhoza kukunjata ndipo milandu imene itakukhuthukireyo singakhale yamasewera. Tili ndi mkaka muno, mkaka umatha kusukulutsa poizoni. Ubwino wake ineyo ndili bwinoko poyerekezera ndi iweyo. Ndimwa mkakawo kuti nditsale wambewu. Ukudetsa nkhawa ndi iweyo. Ndiye usayerekeze kuthamangira kuchipatala. Kumenekonso akangokupatsako mkaka womwewo.”

Kenako Matt anakhomanso anamphatika aja ndipo anayamba kuyenda molowera kumene kunali kabati yosungira zakudya kuja. Kumeneko anatenga jumbo yamkaka wa ufa. Kenako anatenga kapu n’kutaira pansu madzi omwe anali m’menemo. Jim anaona Matt akupita pasinki n’kukayamba kusungunula mkaka wake ndipo atakondoweza anatenga kapuyo n’kugugudiza. Jim anamutsatira ndipo anafika pamene panali Matt thupi lake likutekeseka koopsa ndipo anayetsa kutenga kapu yopanda kanthu kuti nayenso asungunule mkaka wake. Koma ulendo umenewunso Matt anamukankha.

“Ukuganiza kuti kapu imodzi yokha ingandikwanire? Dikira kaye ndimalize. Usungunula wako ineyo ndikamaliza.”

Jim anayamba kuyenda modzandira kulowera kukhomo kuja kuti akatuluke, koma Matt anamubwezanso.

“Ukayerekezanso kupita kukhomoko ndikuswa. Wamva? Ndakuuza kale kuti usungunula mkaka wako ineyo ndikamaliza. Uzingopempheranso kuti mkakawo utsalemo. Koma dziwa kuti ngakhale upulumuke ndikuphabe. Iweyo kwako kwatha basi. Ndakhala ndikukuuza mobwerezabwereza kuti ukadzangoyerekeza kuchita zamasewera ndi ine ndidzakusowetsa!”

“Komatu nawenso wanditsirira tameki,” anatero Jim akuyenda modzikoka.

Matt sanayankhe. Anangonyamuka n’kupitanso pa-

sinki paja kuti akamalizitse kupanga kapu yachiwiri ndipo atakondowezanso, anagugudiza. M’maso mwa Jim muna-yamba kulengeza misozi moti ankalephera kuona kutso-golo pamene ankadzandira n’kumalowera kumene kunali tebulo lija kuti akatenge kapu yake. Pa nthawiyi Matt anali atayamba kupanga kapu yachitatu, ndipo mofanana ndi maulendo ena aja, anamukankhanso mnzakeyo kuti asatenge mkaka.

“Ndakuuza kuti udikire kaye ndimalize!” Matt anakalipa ngati chiphaliwali. “Tachoka apa usandiyandikire!”

Jim anagwira sinki ija kuti asagwe, kwinaku maso ake ali pamkaka womwe ukanapululumutsa moyo wake. Kunali kulimba mtima kwakukulu kuti aimebe pomwepo atagwira sinkiyo. Thupi lake linali likupotokoka ndi kunjenjemera moti posakhalitsa anagwera pansi. Matt anagugudiza kapu yachitatu ija ndipo movutikira anapita kukakhala pampando. Nayenso thupi lake linali litayamba kumung’amba. Koma tsopano ankamvako bwino pang’ono. Iye ankaona kuti mkaka wamwawo umuthandiza. Mtima wake unayamba kukhala m’malo ndipo ankaona kuti ndi wotetezeka. Kenako anapukuta thukuta pachipumi pake, n’kumayang’ana mnzake ankaphepheluka uja ngati akuonera sewero.

Jim anadzilimbitsa kuti aime pasinki paja n’kusu-ngunula mkaka woti amwe. Atangomaliza kuusungunula, thupi lake linayambanso kunjenjemera moti kapu yamkayayo inamupulumuka n’kugwera pansi. Anayesa kupunguliranso mkaka wina m’kapumo koma thupi lake sili-namulole moti analengukanso n’kugwera pansi. Matt atona izi, anamwetulira khutu mpaka khutu.

“Wadyapo!” anatero Matt pogeya chipongwe kwa mnzake ankazunzikayo. “Moyotu si wophweka m’bale wanga. Limbikira koma, mkakawo ukhoza kukuthandiza.

Taona ineyo, ndayambatu kupeza bwino.”

Jim anangomucheukira ndi nkhope yopempha thandizo, yomwe inali itakwinyika ndi ululu woopsa. Kenako anayamba kuphipha ngati wodwala khunyu n’kumagubuduka pansi paja moti nkhope yake inanyowa ndi mkaka womwe unangoti telekateleka pansi paja.

Matt anayamba kuseka koopsa ataona zimenezo, koma kuseka kumeneko sikunapite patali. Nayenso thupi lake linayamba kunjenjemera. Zikuoneka kuti mkuntho wina wamanjenje unali utamugwira. Anadzuka n’kuyenda modzandira kupita kusinki kuja, komwe ankafuna kukasungunulanso kapu ina ya mkaka, koma ulendo uno zala zake sizinamulole. Chifukwa chofooka, anaima motsamira sinki ija ndipo nayenso anayamba kutsetserekera pansi nkhope yake itatembenukiratu.

Mnzake uja anali atasiya kunjenjemera, moti anakhala pansi atafookeratu, chipumi chake chitanona ndi thukuta, pakamwa pakutuluka thovu. Kenako anayamba kutikika m’maso ndi kuseri kwa dzanja lake kwinaku akusisima. Pa nthawiyi, kukhosi kwake kunkamveka phokoso lachilendo, kuli fwikofwiko.

“Kodi ukulira chiyani, Jim?” Matt anafunsa ali mu ululu. “Munthu woipa ngati iwe sukufunikanso kukhala ndi moyo. Ukufunika kusowa padzikoli ndipo ukangofa ukhala kuti watha ntchito.”

“Inetu. . . sindiku . . . sindikulira. . . . Ndi . . . ndi tsabola wandilowa m’maso,” anatero Jim mawu ake akutuluka mosisitika.

Kumeneku kunali kuyankhula komaliza. Kenako anayamba kutsalima, kukhosi kwake kukutuluka phokoso lofanana ndi la nkhuu yachitopa.

Matt anadzuka akudzandira n’kupita kumene kunali mpando kuja. Koma asanakhale pansi, thupi lake lina-

khwefuka ndipo anagwira mawondo ake. Iye anayesetsa kudzilimbisa kuti asagwe kwinaku akuyang'ana Jim yemwe anangogona pansu maso ali pamtunda, ali mbe-e. Matt anazindikira kuti mnzakeyo wadutsa.

Kenako anayesa kudziyankhulira yekha, koma mawu ake analephera kudutsa pakhosi. Tsopano anazindikira kuti mkaka uja sunamuthandize, moti ankaona kuti chofunika ndi kuthamangira kuchipatala basi. Iye anayang'ana kukhomo kuja n'kudzuka modzikoka ndipo anayamba kuyenda akudzandira ngati woledzera kuti akatuluke. Koma kenako analenguka moti anagwira mpando kuti asagwere pansu.

Pamenepo anayambanso kunjenjemera koopsa ndipo kunjenjemerako kunafika poipa kwambiri moti anagwera pansu ngati mtolo wankhuni n'kuyamba kuphiriphi-tha ngati mchira wabuluzi. Kunjenjemerako kutachepa, anadzuka modzilimbisa n'kuyenda pang'onopang'ono kuti akatsegule chitseko. Anayamba ndi kutembenuza kiyi, kenako anakankha namphatika mmodzi, koma analephera kukankha namphatika wachiwiri. Maso ake anali ataderatu ndipo thupi lake linali litasanduka katundu wolembera kwambiri moti miyendo yake inkalephera kumunyamula. Mphamvu zitamuthera, anayamba kutsetsereka ndi chitseko chija ndipo anagwera pansu kuti khuphuthu.

Mukhoza kupeza mabuku ena kwaulere pa linki iyi: [Lula Pensulo](#)